

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended and new claim 5 has been added. Thus, claims 1-5 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed October 21, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,590,288 to Castor et al. (Castor) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,529 to Lum (Lum). Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castor in view of Lum, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,510,979 to Moderi et al. (Moderi). It is noted that claims 1 and 3 have been amended by this response. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejections.

Castor teaches a distributed data processing system. The system includes a polling routine and layered software, which call predetermined application procedures in response to input from peripherals and the network. The distributed data processing system of Castor includes a first and second computer electronically connected by a network. When the first computer is initialized, the operating system, application program and data are retrieved from the second computer's secondary storage, thereby enabling the first computer to be operated without a disk drive.

Claim 1 has been amended to change "data processing" to "processing of application or applications." Claim 1 now recites the limitation "wherein at least one of

said clients is operable in standalone fashion and has server functionality so that it executes processing of application or applications in response to requests issued by other clients and outputs the results of the processing to said clients that issued such requests.”

The Applicant submits that the passages of Castor cited by the Examiner fail to disclose such features of the present invention as claimed in claim 1. More particularly, the distributed data processing system of Castor includes first and second computers electronically connected by a network, and when the first computer is initialized, the operating system, application program and data are retrieved from the second computer’s secondary storage, thereby enabling the first computer to be operated without a disk drive. In the passages cited by the Examiner, the first computer requests the operating system, application program and data from the second computer. The first computer then receives and stores in RAM the operating system, application program and data. Thereafter, the first computer executes the application program and/or runs the operating system. Castor, however, fails to teach that the first computer requests the second computer to process data with an application running on the second computer. Thus, Castor does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention, e.g. “at least one of said clients is operable in standalone fashion and has server functionality so that it executes processing of application or applications in response to requests issued by other clients and outputs the results of the data processing to said clients that issued such requests,” as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, the passages of Castor cited by the Examiner only teach that the first computer requests the operating system, application program and data from the

second computer, and the first computer then executes the application program and/or runs the operating system. The cited passages of Castor do not disclose that the first computer transmits any resulting information to the second computer. Thus, Castor does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention, e.g. “at least one of said clients is operable in standalone fashion and has server functionality so that it executes processing of application or applications in response to requests issued by other clients and outputs the results of the data processing to said clients that issued such requests”, as recited in claim 1.

Neither Castor nor any of the other cited art either alone or in combination discloses or suggests at least the above feature of the present invention as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 1 of the present invention is patentable over the art of record, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding the rejection of claim 2, this claim is dependent on claim 1 and is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2.

Regarding the rejection of claim 3, claim 3 has been amended to change the term “data processing” to “processing of application or applications”. Amended claim 3 is patentable for similar reasons to those discussed above with reference to amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3.

Regarding the rejection of claim 4, this claim is dependent on claim 3 and is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4.

New claim 5 is patentable for similar reasons to those discussed above with reference to claim 1.

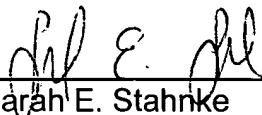
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC



Sarah E. Stahnke
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 54,854

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 828-3428
Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810

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